

City Council of the Mayor and Council of New Castle
Public Hearing at Town Hall
201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Tuesday – April 10, 2012 – 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Council President William Barthel
Councilperson John Cochran
Councilperson John Gaworski
Councilperson Ted Megginson
Councilperson Teel Petty

Also present: Mayor Donald Reese, Treasurer Janet Carlin, City Administrator Cathryn Thomas, City Solicitor Daniel Losco

A public hearing concerning Ordinance No. 487, which proposes changes to Chapter 122 – Firearms, of the New Castle City Code.

Councilperson Megginson said it was brought to his attention last fall that there has been some firearms discharged in the City limits, mostly around the Broad Dike and the ditch where it comes into Buttonwood. Part of it is owned by Zenith Corp. and part of it by Harvey Hanna. A person from New Castle walked upon illegal duck hunters in Buttonwood Marsh, who claimed they had permission from the owners.

Councilperson Megginson said even if you have private property in the City you are not allowed to discharge firearms. In reviewing the ordinance, the City found it was only a \$50 fine to discharge. He asked the City Solicitor to rewrite that part for the violations. He came up with not more than \$500 for the first offense, and two or more times shall be up to \$1,000 fine and imprisonment of up to one year for each subsequent offense. The City wanted to toughen it up. If passed, the City should send a notification letter to Zenith and Harvey Hanna.

President Barthel said the other changes were in the definition of firearm.

Solicitor Losco said the definition changes were the Police Chief's recommendation.

Councilperson Gaworski asked if it would apply to "potato guns." A brief discussion was held on those types of devices.

Earl Carpenter asked who would determine the fine.

Solicitor Losco said the fines and imprisonment are up to the judge.

Councilperson Gaworski said the City needs to make sure there are enough postings

Councilperson Megginson said the City will need to get some additional postings out, particularly in that specific area.

Councilperson Megginson made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. Councilperson Cochran seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.